

In the Claims:

No claims are canceled or amended, and no new claims are presented for examination. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, a complete listing of all the claims in the application is provided immediately below to facilitate further examination.

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

1-5. (previously canceled)

6. (previously presented) An optical fiber connector attachable to a fiber optic cable, the optical fiber connector having a factory polished end face and comprising:

a ferrule having a piece of an optical fiber previously secured therein, the piece of optical fiber extending from the ferrule in a rearward direction for fusion splicing to the fiber optic cable;

a ferrule holder removably attached to the ferrule to allow the piece of optical fiber extending from the ferrule to be exposed and fusion spliced to the fiber optic cable;

a basic housing to fit over the ferrule and ferrule holder;

a crimping ring for fixing a stress member of the fiber optic cable to the basic housing;

an anti-kink guard that slides over the fiber optic cable and attaches to an end of the basic housing; and

an outer housing.

7. (previously presented) The optical fiber connector of claim 6, wherein the piece of the optical fiber extending from the ferrule has an end point that is disposed within the ferrule holder when the ferrule holder is attached to the ferrule.

8. (previously presented) A method of connecting an optical fiber connector to a fiber optic cable comprising the steps of:

providing a ferrule having a piece of an optical fiber previously secured therein, the piece of optical fiber extending from the ferrule in a rearward direction;

sliding a ferrule holder over a portion of the fiber optic cable, the ferrule holder being removably attachable to the ferrule;

fusion splicing the piece of optical fiber extending outward from the rearward portion of the ferrule to an optical fiber in the fiber optic cable; and

inserting the ferrule into the ferrule holder, the ferrule holder housing a portion of the piece of optical fiber and a portion of the optical fiber in the fiber optic cable after the piece of optical fiber and the optical fiber are fused together.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

inserting the ferrule and ferrule holder into a basic housing;

crimping a crimp ring to the basic housing to secure at least one stress member from the fiber optic cable to the basic housing;

securing an anti-kink guard to a rearward end of the basic housing; and

sliding an outer housing over at least a portion of the basic housing.